

MAILS EXPECTED

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THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. steamer *City of Tokio*, with the next American mail, left Yokohama on the morning of the 11th, and may be expected here on the 17th instant.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The E. and A. M. steamer *Mennunga*, with the next Torres Straits mail left Singapore on the 11th.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

A MATH WILL, OUSE
For Amoy and Guangzhou—For Diomed, to-
day, the 16th inst., at 10.30 A.M.
For Straits and Calcutta.—For Mercury and
Japan, to-day, the 16th inst., at 2.30 P.M.
For Manila.—For Diomed, to-day, the 16th
inst., at 8.30 P.M.
For Amoy.—For Otao, to-day, the 16th
inst., at 10.30 A.M.
For Amoy, Tamsui, and Taiwan.—For
Ulrich, to-day, the 15th inst., at 5 P.M.
For Bangkok.—For Rojanathimukh, to-day,
the 16th inst., at 10.30 A.M.
For Swatow.—To-day, the 16th inst., at 5 P.M.
For Saigon.—For America, to-morrow, the
16th inst., at 10.30 A.M.
For Yokohama, via Kobe.—For Sumida-Maru,
to-morrow, the 16th inst., at 5 P.M.
For Hiohoo, Palhoi, and Halmah.—To-
morrow, the 16th inst., at 10.30 A.M.
For Port Darwin, Cooktown, Sydney, Mel-
bourne, &c.—For Crusader, on Saturday, the 17th
inst., at 10.30 A.M.

For Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow.—
Per Varnos, on Saturday, the 17th inst., at 8 P.M.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to
 Prior, under Section XII. of the Post Office
 Ordinance, 1874, that the Late Fee charged on
 Correspondence posted after certain hours for
 Europe, America, the Australian Colonies,
 India, &c., shall be 10 Cents, instead of 18
 as hitherto.

MAILS BY THE BRITISH PACKET.
 The British Contract Packet "OXUS" will
 be despatched on **SATURDAY**, the
 17th April, with Mails to and through the
 United Kingdom and Europe, via Brindisi; to
 the Straits Settlements, Batavia, Borneo, Cey-
 lon, Aden, India, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.
 This is the best opportunity for forwarding Cor-
 respondence to Mauritius, E. Africa, the Cape,
 St. Helena, and Ascension.

N.B.—This Packet carries no mails for the
 Australian Colonies.

MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.
 The French Contract Packet "OXUS"
 will be despatched on **SATURDAY**, the 24th
 inst., with Mails to and through the United
 Kingdom and Europe, via Naples to Saigon,
 the Straits Settlements, Batavia, Borneo, Ceylon,
 the Australian Colonies, Pondichery, Madras,
 Calcutta, Aden, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.

**HOURS FOR CLOSING THE CONTRACT
 MAILS.**

THE FRENCH MAIL.—DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE.
 1 P.M. Money Order Office closes. Post Office
 closes, except the night box, which is always
 open out of office hours.
 DAY OF DEPARTURE.
 4 A.M. Post Office opens.
 10 A.M. Registry of Letters ceases. Posting of
 all printed matter and patterns ceases.
 11 A.M. Mail closes, except for Late Letters.
 11.10 A.M. Letters may be posted with Late Fee
 of 10 cents until
 12.30 A.M. when the Post Office closes entirely.

At 4.40 A.M., Late Letters may be posted on board the packet with Late Fee of 18 Cents until time of departure.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.—DAY OF DEPARTURE

5 P.M., Money Order Office closes.

5 P.M., Registry of Letters ceases. Posting of all printed matter and patterns ceases.

5 P.M., Mails closed, except for Late Letters.

At 10 P.M. Letters may be posted with Late Fee of 10 cents until

12.30 P.M., when the Post Office closes entirely.

At 12.40 P.M., Late Letters may be posted on board the Packet with Late Fee of 10 cents until time of departure.

REGULATIONS AS TO SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS'

LETTERS.

1.—Privates in H.M. Army or Navy. Non-commissioned Officers.* Army Schoolmasters (not Superintending or First Class) or Schoolmistresses may send half-ounce letters to the United Kingdom via Brindisi or via Marseilles at the rate of four cents (twopence) each, which may be prepaid either in Imperial or in Hong-kong Stamps.

2.—The same privileges apply to letters addressed to the Privates and Non-commissioned Officers named above.

3. - All such letters prepaid at the former rate of two cents (one penny) will be forwarded to or from the United Kingdom by private steamers and not by the mail packets.
4. - Private steamers leave Hongkong for London about every ten days, and are from six to seven weeks on the voyage.
5. - The letters must not exceed half an ounce. No handkerchiefs, jewellery, &c., can be sent, even with the ends open.
6. - If from a Soldier or Sailor his class and

7.—If to a Soldier or Sailor, his class and designation, with name of regiment, ship, &c., must be stated in full.

8.—Soldiers and Sailors have no privileges with regard to books or papers, nor can these be repaired with Imperial Stamps.

* But not Warrant Officers, viz.—Assistant Engineers, Munitions, Barracks, or Cavalry.

TEA MUSTERS.
Persons who send Masters of Tea through the Post in Tins are requested to have them made flat or square instead of round, as it is impossible to pack round tins securely in the mail bags. It is believed that the tea will travel more safely in flat tins, which are not so liable to be round ones to be bulged in.
4 by 3 by 14 inches is suggested as a good size. The tins should not have sharp corners.

**LETTERS FOR THE UNITED STATES BY SAILING
SHIP.**

When it is desired to forward letters to the United States by a sailing ship which is not loaded as carrying a mail, it is only necessary to post the letters in the ordinary way, marked with the name of the ship, and prepaid 8 cents per half ounce as usual. This Office then undertakes the duty of obtaining notice of departure and despatching the correspondences. It is recommended that the letters be posted if possible at

Many boxes of letters are received at the Post office not sealed, that is to say, the box is fastened with sealing wax, but there is no impression of a seal.

The attention of boxholders is called to the necessity of carefully sealing such boxes with some recognisable seal, and of sending a check-book or receipt with them. The omission of the latter precaution leaves a doubt as to whether the contents of the box have reached the

POST OFFICE: THE OMISSION OF THE FORMER, AS TO
NEITHER PART OF THEM MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AT-
TESTED FOR THE SAKE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS.

INDemnity FOR THE LOSS OF A REGISTERED
LETTER.

The Post Office is not legally responsible for
 the safe delivery of Registered Correspondence,
 it henceforth it will be prepared to make good
 the contents of such correspondence lost while
 passing through the Post, to the extent of \$10.

1.—That the sender duly observed all the conditions of Registration required.

2.—That the letter was securely enclosed in a reasonably strong envelope.

3.—That application was made to the Postmaster General of Hongkong immediately the letter was discovered, the envelope being invariably forwarded with such application unless it also is lost.

4.—That the Postmaster General is satisfied that the loss occurred whilst the correspondence

5.—No compensation can be paid for mere damage to fragile articles such as portraits, clothes, handsomely bound books, &c., which reach their destination, although in a broken or deteriorated condition.

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